



**RICHARD M.
BÉGIN**
MUNICIPAL COUNCILLOR
FOR THE DESCHÊNES DISTRICT

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
December 2014

A Word from your Councillor

Dear Deschênes Residents,

Since November 3, 2013 I have had the honour of representing you as municipal councillor. It has been quite a year and that has gone by in a flash.

With the saga of 79 Fraser, a file that is now before the courts, our district has been in the eye of the storm. More specifically, it has been at the centre of an historic debate and change at the Urban Planning Division. When I ran for election my main priority was to bring significant changes in this area and, furthermore, to re-establish a relationship of trust and respect between the municipal administration and taxpayers. This is now taking place!

As Chair of the Urban Planning Consultative Committee (*Comité consultatif d'urbanisme [CCU]*), I have worked on major files affecting the entire population such as the Land Use Planning and Development Scheme and *The Isles* project of the Windmill group. In Aylmer, I was very much involved with the decisions relating

to some complex cases such as the Connaught Park and its future school, the new Saint Paul's Church and the Domaine des frênes.

As councillor, I have made it my duty to be available and accessible, to participate in the activities of the district and to listen to you, a commitment I plan to keep throughout my term of office.

The road ahead looks promising. The first steps are being taken to revitalize the former main street of Deschênes (Vanier Road). Similarly, the preservation and enhancement of the Deschênes Rapids natural and archeological heritage site is progressing well. And let's not forget Boucher Forest!

All is ready, therefore, for very interesting developments ahead. On that note, I would like to offer you my best season greetings!



A Cultural Change in Urban Planning

The severe jolt created by the file on 79 Fraser (see the inquiry report at www.gatineau.ca) has led to winds of cultural change in the urban planning process in Gatineau. A strategy in this regard was adopted in October by City Council. I was deeply involved in the development of this strategy aimed at: implementing, over the next two years, a client-based approach; displaying much greater transparency; promoting relations characterized by mutual respect; and ensuring delivery of more efficient services. With this strategy, it is our hope to make Gatineau a leader in urban planning in Quebec.



At the press conference on changes to urban planning with Mayor Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin, the Director General, Marie-Hélène Lajoie, and the Managing Director responsible for urban planning, Catherine Marchand.

Comprehensible Public Notices as of January

Another change: public notices will be changed to make them accessible and comprehensible. Upon taking up my position as Chair of the CCU, I undertook discussions with the services to see how to implement such a system. Starting next January, public notices will be published two weeks before the sitting of City Council, which will allow residents to obtain information more quickly and be better equipped to express concerns and

ask questions to the elected officials. On the City's website it will be possible as of January to consult notices, plans as well as the analyses submitted to the CCU. Furthermore, it will allow free subscription to receive online information every time a new notice is published regarding selected areas of interests. This will be a first in Quebec.

Day Hospital for Seniors Maintained

In order to maintain neighbourhood services for the population, I intervened on the file regarding day hospitals for seniors when there was a possibility that the hospitals in the Aylmer and Gatineau sector would close and be amalgamated with the one in Hull. As Chair of the Seniors' Commission, as soon as the amalgamation of the three hospitals was announced, I contacted the responsible authorities to express my concerns. I also met with the provincial member for Pontiac, André Fortin, who was receptive and supported my efforts. This service is essential for seniors who benefit from it and has an impact on the whole community.

Towards Revitalization of Vanier Road

For the last few months I have been working to ensure that the former main street in Deschênes (the section of Vanier between Lucerne and the river) is properly revitalized. Furthermore, I have set aside \$583,900 from the Community Development Fund for that purpose, in order to seize the unique opportunity offered to us by the major aqueduct and sewer main work which will start on that portion of Vanier in the Spring of 2015. Our objective for the street and the shoreline of the river, of course, is to bring new life to the sector and eventually make it a centre of attraction in Gatineau.

Active Residents

The Deschênes district is where the number of residents associations is the greatest. I am honoured and proud to participate in the life of these associations that help me carry out my work better and that demonstrate the importance of democratic life in the district.



At the neighbourhood gathering of the Lakeview Terrace Residents Association with Sonja Kosuta, outgoing President.



At the neighbourhood gathering of the Connaught Area Residents and Rivermead Residents Associations. Beside me are Étienne O'Connor, President of the Rivermead Association, and Jean-Sébastien Racine, President of the Connaught Area Residents Association.



A citizen from our district, Jacques Coderre, declared "Citizen of the Year" by Aylmer Civitan Club. Again my heartest congratulations.

Source: Aylmer Bulletin

Boucher Forest

The Boucher Forest represents the lungs of the Western part of the City and deserves to be protected. That is why this fall the City made a commitment to spend over 4 million dollars to acquire a part of the 700 acres of the forest still belonging to developers. This past September, at my initiative, an amount of \$5,500, contributed jointly by 14 council members, was given to the Boucher Forest Foundation to help it make the population aware of the need to preserve and enhance this exceptional urban forest. Since the 1990s I have supported the efforts aimed at protecting this forest. In 2003, when I was a citizen member of the CCU, we recommended deferred zoning to prevent any residential development in the forest, and this was accepted by City Council. The new Land Use Planning and Development Scheme also supports this effort for long-term protection.



Presentation of cheque with Adrian Corbo, President of the Boucher Forest Foundation, and councillors Mike Duggan and Jocelyn Blondin.

To Reach your Councillor

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Political Responsibilities

- Chair of the *Comité consultatif d'urbanisme* and of the *Comité sur les demandes de démolition*
- Chair of the *Commission sur les aînés*
- Member of the *Commission des loisirs, des sports et de la vie communautaire*
- Member of the Board of Directors and of the *Comité des affaires courantes de Développement économique – CLD Gatineau*
- Member of the Board of Directors of *Tourisme Outaouais*
- The city's representative with Interclubs Aylmer and the *Corporation de l'âge d'or d'Aylmer*